

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Final Office Action mailed February 4, 2009, claims 1 – 8 and 11 – 13 were rejected. Additionally, claims 9 and 10 were objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicants propose amending claims 1 and 4 and canceling claims 9 and 10. Applicants respectfully request that the amendments be entered to put the claims in condition for allowance. Applicants hereby request reconsideration of the application in view of the amended claims and the below-provided remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's review of and determination that claims 9 and 10 recite allowable subject matter. In particular, the Office Action states that claims 9 and 10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have rewritten claim 1 to include all of the limitations of claim 9 and have rewritten claim 4 to include all of the limitations of claim 10. Therefore, Applicants assert that amended claims 1 and 4 are in allowable condition.

Claims 2, 3, 8, 11, and 12 are dependent on claim 1 and claims 5 – 7 and 13 are dependent on claim 4. Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are allowable at least based on allowable base claims.

Response to Claim Rejections

Claims 1 – 8 and 11 – 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Holloway et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,183,131, hereinafter Holloway). However, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is moot in view of the above-described amendments.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the amended claims and the remarks made herein. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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